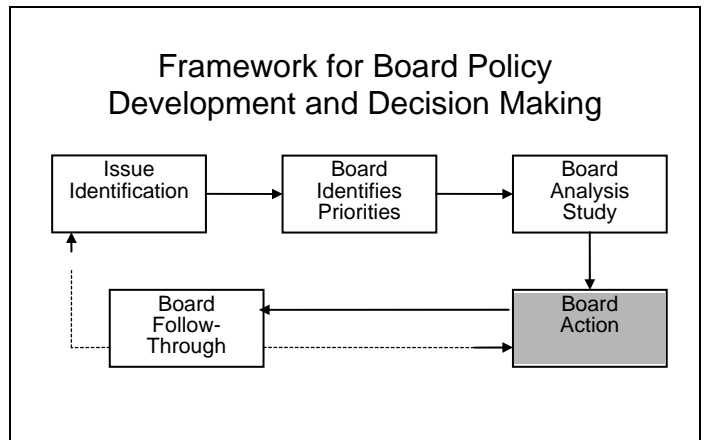


# Iowa State Board of Education

## Executive Summary

November 14, 2007



**Agenda Item:** Request for Accredited Nonpublic School to Add a Grade

**Iowa Goal:** All K-12 students will achieve at high levels, prepared for success beyond high school.

**Equity Impact Statement:** 281 IAC 12.5(8) requires that each school and school district incorporate multicultural and gender fair goals for the educational program into its comprehensive school improvement plan.

**Presenter:** Consent Agenda

**Attachments:** 1

**Recommendation:** It is recommended that the State Board approve the request from St. Mary's School in Manchester to expand accreditation from grades 1-6, to include kindergarten.

**Background:** Grades 1-6 are currently accredited at St. Mary's School in Manchester. Documentation and an on-site visit by a school improvement consultant from the Department confirmed the school to be in compliance with the accreditation standards as identified in 281—IAC Chapter 12.

The following has been verified:

- The school has hired an appropriately licensed teacher for the kindergarten assignment.
- The school is incorporating the required content specifications for kindergarten as verified through an examination of curriculum compared to the elements required in 281—IAC 12.5(1).
- The school has standards and grade level benchmarks for all grades K-6.
- The school has included kindergarten in its Comprehensive School Improvement Plan.



# STATE OF IOWA

CHESTER J. CULVER, GOVERNOR  
PATTY JUDGE, LT. GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
JUDY A. JEFFREY, DIRECTOR

DATE: October 8, 2007

TO: Members, State Board of Education

FROM: Judy Jeffrey, Executive Director

SUBJECT: Request for Accredited Nonpublic School to Add a Grade

Please consider the request of the Board of Education of St. Mary's School in Manchester to expand accreditation from grades 1-6, to include kindergarten.

Julie Melcher, school improvement consultant, visited the school on September 11, 2007, and has verified the following:

- The school has hired an appropriately licensed teacher for the kindergarten assignment.
- The school is incorporating the required content specifications for kindergarten as verified through an examination of curriculum compared to the elements required in 281—IAC 12.5(1).
- The school has standards and grade level benchmarks for all grades K-6.
- The school has included kindergarten in its Comprehensive School Improvement Plan.

During the September 11 school visit, Julie met with the school's administrator and kindergarten teacher. All points of nonpublic school accreditation have been verified.

cc: Kevin Fangman, Division Administrator  
Del Hoover, Deputy Division Administrator  
Marlene Dorenkamp, Consultant